



HOPEDALE

Worcester County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Hopedale is on the southeastern edge of Worcester County and occupies the valley of the upper Mill River. Benjamin Albee set up a grist mill on the Mill River to grind settlers' corn in 1669 in the first recorded settlement. Until the mid-19th century, the town followed the pattern of many communities with a combination of agriculture and small industry. But in 1842, Adin Ballou and his followers, idealists who wanted to combine biblical individualism with social responsibility and religious liberalism, purchased 600 acres in what is now downtown Hopedale to establish Fraternal Community Number One. Thirty houses, chapel and workshops were built on an architectural plan for the 170 people who joined in the social experiment, which combined farming with manufacturing, and took strong social stands on temperance, women's rights and abolition.

Unfortunately, disagreements over how to administer the community ended in bankruptcy by 1856 and George and Ebenezer Draper, followers of Ballou, took over the property. The brothers made doors, window sashes and blinds and ran a printing office, but they discovered early on that their most profitable business was making textile machinery. By 1880 there were 400 patents held in Hopedale for textile machinery, 800 Draper employees and \$1 million in sales. By 1892, with the advent of the Northrop Loom, Draper became the largest producer of textile machinery in the country. There were 78,000 Northrop looms sold in 1903 because they used less power and could be operated by untrained hands (which resulted in the textile industry abandoning New England and moving south). By World War I, the majority of the 400,000 looms in the United States had been made by Draper and the company was selling to China, Russia and Mexico.

The Drapers believed that good houses make good workers and created a model self-contained company town with one of the best collections of architecturally significant double houses in the country, built on hills and in valleys in garden settings which preserved the views. The company charged low rents, and provided high quality housing, impeccable maintenance and recreation opportunities. Workers left their handsomely designed duplex houses to walk to work at Hopedale Machine, or Northrop Loom, or Hopedale Elastic and left work to play in company parks or stroll along company streets. In addition, the Drapers donated the high school, playground and bandstand to the town and built roads, sidewalks, sewage systems and water and gas lines to service their 250 buildings of worker

housing. Only one strike, in 1913, was ever recorded in Hopedale through the most turbulent eras of American labor unrest. The Drapers' secular, paternalistic industrial complex was highly successful, resulting in an integrated, planned community with innovative 19th and early 20th century employee housing, a central institutional complex and proprietors' estates, all of which remain essentially intact.



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Milford on the northeast, Bellingham on the east, Mendon on the south and west, and Upton on the northwest. Hopedale is 20 miles southeast of Worcester and 31 miles southwest of Boston.

Total Area: 5.32 sq. miles

Land Area: 5.15 sq. miles

Population: 5,666

Density: 1,100 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(West Medway Station)

Normal temperature in January.....23.9°F

Normal temperature in July.....70.8°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.6"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Milford, Blackstone

Regional Planning Agency

Central Massachusetts

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 634-2203

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Coordinator

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1886

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	3,262		
Democrats	642	19.7	%
Republicans	358	11.0	%
Other parties	2	0.1	%
Unenrolled Voters	2,260	69.3	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Hopedale town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	5,907	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	5,907	100.0
Male.....	2,812	47.6	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	69	1.2
Female.....	3,095	52.4	Mexican.....	5	0.1
Under 5 years.....	428	7.2	Puerto Rican.....	40	0.7
5 to 9 years.....	427	7.2	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	443	7.5	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	24	0.4
15 to 19 years.....	358	6.1	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	5,838	98.8
20 to 24 years.....	192	3.3	White alone.....	5,710	96.7
25 to 34 years.....	715	12.1	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,107	18.7	Total population.....	5,907	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	883	14.9	In households.....	5,775	97.8
55 to 59 years.....	272	4.6	Householder.....	2,240	37.9
60 to 64 years.....	169	2.9	Spouse.....	1,318	22.3
65 to 74 years.....	417	7.1	Child.....	1,876	31.8
75 to 84 years.....	354	6.0	Own child under 18 years.....	1,474	25.0
85 years and over.....	142	2.4	Other relatives.....	162	2.7
Median age (years).....	38.7	(X)	Under 18 years.....	44	0.7
18 years and over.....	4,360	73.8	Nonrelatives.....	179	3.0
Male.....	2,037	34.5	Unmarried partner.....	87	1.5
Female.....	2,323	39.3	In group quarters.....	132	2.2
21 years and over.....	4,210	71.3	Institutionalized population.....	116	2.0
62 years and over.....	1,012	17.1	Noninstitutionalized population.....	16	0.3
65 years and over.....	913	15.5	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	365	6.2	Total households.....	2,240	100.0
Female.....	548	9.3	Family households (families).....	1,573	70.2
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	802	35.8
One race.....	5,867	99.3	Married-couple family.....	1,318	58.8
White.....	5,761	97.5	With own children under 18 years.....	672	30.0
Black or African American.....	33	0.6	Female householder, no husband present.....	198	8.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	1	-	With own children under 18 years.....	105	4.7
Asian.....	42	0.7	Nonfamily households.....	667	29.8
Asian Indian.....	4	0.1	Householder living alone.....	580	25.9
Chinese.....	17	0.3	Householder 65 years and over.....	286	12.8
Filipino.....	1	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	843	37.6
Japanese.....	2	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	616	27.5
Korean.....	14	0.2	Average household size.....	2.58	(X)
Vietnamese.....	1	-	Average family size.....	3.13	(X)
Other Asian ¹	3	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	2,289	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	2,240	97.9
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	49	2.1
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	5	0.2
Some other race.....	30	0.5	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.3	(X)
Two or more races.....	40	0.7	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.4	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	2,240	100.0
White.....	5,801	98.2	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,747	78.0
Black or African American.....	43	0.7	Renter-occupied housing units.....	493	22.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	7	0.1	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.75	(X)
Asian.....	51	0.9	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.96	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	46	0.8			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	98
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	2
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Hopedale is located in the Blackstone River Valley, which played a major role in early American industrial development, due to its strategic location between Worcester and Providence. Situated between Interstates 90, 395, and 495, today the Blackstone Valley has good highway and rail access to the ports, airports, and intermodal facilities of Worcester, Providence, and Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 16 and 140. Interstate 495 is easily accessible in neighboring Milford.

Rail

There is no freight rail service in Hopedale, but the town has easy access to the network of intermodal facilities serving Eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Bus

Hopedale is not affiliated with a regional transit authority.

Other

The Worcester Municipal Airport, a Primary Commercial (PR) facility with scheduled passenger service, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 5,500' and 6,999' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Adin Manor Conv. Home

Hopedale Garden Nursing Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.